

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EB-08 OES-07 DLOS-09 CIAE-00 INR-10
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FM AMEMBASSY DUBLIN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0226
USDOC WASHDC
INFO AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY ROME
AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

UNCLAS DUBLIN 00600

USEEC ALSO FOR EMBASSY

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EFIS, BEXP, EI

SUBJECT: FISHERIES: GOI TO ACQUIRE AIR/SEA SURVEILLANCE CRAFT

1. MAJOR ASSISTANCE IN THE FINANCING OF THE ENLARGEMENT OF IRELAND'S TINY FISHERY PROTECTION SERVICE HAS LONG BEEN AMONG THE GOI'S OBJECTIVES IN THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A COMMON EC FISHERIES POLICY. THE INTRODUCTION OF THE 200 MILE FISHERY LIMIT LAST YEAR INCREASED THE AREA TO BE PATROLLED BY IRELAND FROM 15,000 SQUARE MILES TO 130,000 SQUIRE MILES.

2. ACCORDING TO IRISH FISHERIES MINISTER BRIAN LENIHAN, AS PART OF A COMPREHENSIVE FISHERIES PACKAGE, THE EC WILL PAY FOR 75 PERCENT OF THE TOTAL COST OF 40 MILLION POUNDS TO RPOCURE FIVE SPOTTER PLANES AND FIVE VESSELS DURING THE NEXT FOUR TO FIVE YEARS. (SEE SEPTTEL UNCLASSIFIED

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FOR BACKGROUND). IT APPEARS LIKELY THAT AS MANY OF THE 1,000 TON SHIPS AS POSSIBLE WILL BE BUILT LOCALLY. (IN FACT, TWO LOCALLY CONSTRUCTED VESSELS ARE ALREADY OPERATIONAL). PROSPECTS FOR US SUPPLIERS APPEAR SOMEWHAT MORE FAVORABLE WITH RESPECT TO THE NEW PATROL AIRCRAFT. IRISH AIR CORPS IS CURRENTLY LEASING A SPECIALLY EQUIPPED BEECHCRAFT SUPER KING AIR AS THEIR ONLY SPOTTER. WE UNDERSTAND THAT THE IRISH ARE SATISFIED WITH THE PERFORMANCE

OF THE AIRCRFAT, BUT WOULD PREFER MORE SOPHISTICATED PHOTOGRAPHIC
AND RADAR EQUIPMENT THAN THEIR CURRENT GEAR. IT IS UNCLEAR AT
PRESENT WHEN THE EC PACKAGE MIGHT ACTUALLY BE FINALIZED, OR WHAT
STRINGS MIGHT BE ATTACHED TO FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE. SHANNON

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